GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6260
ANSWERED ON:08.05.2002
IMPACT OF TOBACCO
RAM PRASAD SINGH

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special study has been conducted on the negative impact of tobacco;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts made at the national level by the Government to tackle the hazards posed by tobacco on health and environment?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) The consumption of tobacco has been established to be a major health hazard. Based on a few community-based surveys conducted in India, it is estimated that 8 lakh deaths per year could be attributed to tobacco use. Scientific investigations spread over three decades have confirmed and provided evidence of cigarette/beedi smoking to be the cause of cardiovascular diseases, stroke, obstructive airway disease, pregnancy complications including intra-uterine growth retardation and a variety of neoplasms including cancers of oral cavity, larynx, ocsophagus, urinary bladder, kidney, stomach, pancreas, cervix and more recently of haemotopoietic system. The studies have suggested conclusively that 50% of all smokers eventually die on account of it and the median survival of smokers is 7.5 years shorter compared to non smokers. Besides, involves, their children have an increased frequency of smoking, their children have an increased frequency of the respiratory and middle ear infections and are risk of impaired lung function increasing the severity of asthmatic episodes. Similarly, epidemiological studies have also substantiated increased risk of coronary heart diseases due to passive smoking.

(c) With a view to discourage use of tobacco products, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has introduced a Bill, namely `The Cigarettes and other Tobacco products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Tradeand Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Bill, 2001, in the Rajya Sabha on 7th March, 2001Intensive IEC campaigns are also undertaken through the print and electronic media to educate the masses about the ill effects of tobacco use.